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January 16, 2024

Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

Re: Buffalo Post Office Operations

Dear Mr. DeJoy:

We understand the United States Postal Service (USPS) is conducting a Mail Processing Facility Review at the Buffalo Processing and Distribution Center and is considering a relocation of operations from Buffalo to Rochester. The consolidation of processing services would have a detrimental impact on the people and businesses in the Buffalo-Niagara region. We are calling on you to immediately remove Buffalo from consideration.

The relocation of operations from Buffalo to Rochester will result in delayed mail and diminished services. For Western New York residents and businesses this means late checks, packages, and prescriptions, compromising the health and security of senior citizens and resulting in a competitive disadvantage for Buffalo area businesses that rely on the U.S. Postal Service for timely mail and packages.

About 700 employees work at the Processing & Distribution Center on William Street in Buffalo. The proposed transfer of processing operations would create instability and make the jobs of USPS employees increasingly difficult. Employees in Buffalo could be forced to deliver mail late into the evening, face unwanted relocation, and be at risk of losing their jobs altogether.

The people of Western New York deserve truth and transparency from the USPS. We are concerned that the United States Postal Service is trying to sneak this by Buffalo. The USPS has yet to post its initial findings or notice of a public meeting. As you propose what would be lasting, adverse changes, you have a duty to inform and hear from the community impacted. Any public meeting must be held at a suitable venue size, time of day, and with proper notice, well after making your findings and plan available to the public.

Buffalo is the second largest city in New York State and has the largest volume of mail in the region. It is a community with solid working-class roots and exciting new economy opportunities. An audit issued by the independent USPS Office of Inspector General on the Delivering for America" plan found *"that when the Postal Service developed its initiatives related to service performance, it did not conduct studies to determine whether specific demographic groups could be disproportionately affected."* The Buffalo facility has always demonstrated its ability to Deliver for America, therefore Buffalo workers and the community must be held harmless.

In 2011, we fought strongly against a proposed closure of the William Street Post Office alongside an engaged Western New York community. Ultimately, the USPS saw the wisdom of our argument and preserved operations at the Buffalo Processing & Distribution Center. Doing the same again this time is in the best interest of the United States Postal Service and the Buffalo-Niagara region. We strongly urge you to abandon any plans to consolidate operations in Buffalo and Rochester.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Higgins". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "B" and a trailing flourish at the end.

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

